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# *The President's Daily Brief*

*3 October 1970*

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*Top Secret* 50X1

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# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 October 1970

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the Middle East, Amman remains quiet and signs continue to appear of maneuvering for the leadership of Egypt. *(Page 1)*

On *Page 2* we highlight and analyze the speech Brezhnev delivered yesterday.

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 3*.



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## MIDDLE EAST

With Amman quiet, all Jordanian armed forces have withdrawn at least three miles outside the city. The government now apparently intends to rely on public security forces to maintain law and order in the capital. These forces are poorly qualified, however. 50X1

The Jordanians remain nervous about possible actions of Iraqi forces. 50X1

In Cairo there continue to be signs of maneuvering for the succession to Nasir. The al-Ahram stories that two possible contenders, acting president Anwar Sadat and former vice president Ali Sabri, suffered heart attacks may have been intended to show that neither is fit to carry on Nasir's work. The paper's editor apparently favors another leading contender, former vice president Zakariya Muhyeddin 50X1





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## USSR

Brezhnev's nationally telecast speech yesterday was an authoritative endorsement of themes already evident in Soviet foreign policy. On the whole it was more bristling than conciliatory with regard to the West.

--Brezhnev praised the new Communist negotiating proposals in Paris and said they had the "full approval and understanding of the Soviet Government." Brezhnev's remarks gave no indication, however, that the Soviets actually think the new proposals will break the log jam in Paris.

--Brezhnev's comments on the Middle East were the harshest by a Soviet leader in some time. He warned against any foreign intervention in the Middle East, stating "one could not only burn one's fingers, but--who knows--even lose an arm." He described US complaints of cease-fire violations as an effort to frustrate peace negotiations "behind a smokescreen of invented accusations against the UAR." He also scored US support for Israel, condemning with special vigor "new consignments of offensive arms."

--Brezhnev was unusually defensive in discussing the Soviet-West German treaty. He defended it against unnamed critics "here and there" as an even-handed agreement from which "all have gained equally." His remarks seem aimed primarily at lending indirect support to the Brandt government's attempts to counter domestic opposition to the treaty, but he may also have intended these comments for the ear of East German and Soviet critics.

--The speech did not contain any reference to the SALT talks.





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## CAMBODIA

The lull in major military activity continues. Communist forces, however, are maintaining pressure against government positions along primary roadways.

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The Thai apparently intend to provide further military assistance to Cambodia despite their lingering dismay over Phnom Penh's rejection of the Thai-Khmer volunteer force.

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